THE EXAMINER.

No. 41. *SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1808.*

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few.
SWIFT.

No. 41.

THE DUKE OF YORK.

TO THE ELECTORS OF WESTMINSTER.

GENTLEMEN;

I ADDRESS you once more on a subject which demands the attention of every independent man in the kingdom; and if my language should be a little hysterical, something between laughing and weeping, between ridicule and lamentation, you must make allowances for the conflict of natural feelings on so ridiculous and so lamentable a subject. Our military reputation has been grossly dishonoured, the feelings of our soldiers have been wounded to the quick, the spirit of the whole kingdom has been insulted and bent to the ground, and all this has arisen from the incapacity of our generals. What then is our remedy? What do the ministerial papers promise us to enliven our faculties? To what general, what hero, what masterly framer of conventions do they direct our eyes, as to the preserver and sanctifier of our military genius?

Oh Fame! If ever you were fond of playing on the trumpet—if ever you valued yourself upon that immense quantity of mouths which your friend VIRGIL mentions,—if ever you delighted in vociferating the names of ALEXANDER, CÆSAR, and MARLBOROUGH, take pity on the nations who are out of the reach of a common newsman's horn, and proclaim to the admiring world the name of England's glorifier and Spain's preserver! Not greater right has the Tartar Chief, after his repast of raw fish, to have a trumpet blown as a signal that all the other monarchs of the earth may go to dinner;—not louder flourish could the mighty *Thumb* demand when he escaped the jaws of the cow and stood before a wondering multitude, eminent in twice seven inches;—not prouder triumph of heart can the little boy feel, when, just breeched and just combed, with sixpence in his pocket and penny-trumpet at his mouth, he pours around those plaintive blasts so delightful to the nervous passenger, than you, Oh Fame, must feel and all the world must acknowledge, when with the awful metal at your lips and with cheeks puffed beyond the most tooth-ache tumification of cherubim on a monument, you sound forth the illustrious name of—THE DUKE OF YORK!

Yes, Gentlemen, it is the Duke of YORK who is to revenge England, to regenerate Spain, in short to crush BONAPARTE. We are suffering for bad conventionalists, and our sufferings are to be done away by a worse! Our reputation is injured by bad generals, and it is to be retrieved by *one* of the worst generals existing! Nay, I do not mean to flatter.

Some of the papers have used a very artful kind of negligence in speaking of this intended command, and merely tell us with an indifference of tone, that the DUKE is going out and that the British soldiers will no doubt fight as well as they always do. But this touch of flattery must not deceive us. Our soldiers are very good soldiers, and if they should not fight with any great confidence under the DUKE, they will fight most probably with desperation; but what is the desperate courage of an army with a bad General, except the violence of a strong man whose head is deranged? Let His ROYAL HIGHNESS produce a single reason why he should undertake this command in direct opposition to the country—why he should say, "I am in the right and the whole people of Great Britain are in the wrong." His genius is evidently not of that consummate kind which can supersede the necessity of long study, and in fact create rules rather than follow them. Has he studied then, to compensate for this deficiency? Has he used his best endeavours to make himself master of the *art of* war? Has he spent his best hours with XENOPHON, POLYBIUS, VAUBAN, SAXE, and GUIBHARDT? Has he yet been persuaded that it is not every man who has genius enough to allow himself leisure to be dissipated? Has he found out, that BONAPARTE, with all his genius, is not running every day from dinner to dinner and from mistress to mistress? Have his ill-successes, in short, taught him to guard against their recurrence by gaining a firmness of mind and a difficult perseverance in difficult studies? —If not,—if he has learnt, if he has acquired none of these requisites to a good commander, what right has he, when there are such men as Sir JOHN STUART and Sir JOHN MOORE in the country, to set himself up as the preserver of England's military glory, as the "present deity" of an expectant people, as the last refulgent load-star of shipwrecked nations? I have not the slightest inclination to undervalue the DUKE's personal courage; he has shewn it in his encounter with individuals, he shews it still in his encounter with the feelings of a whole nation; but as to military skill, one can no more connect the idea of His ROYAL HIGHNESS with good generalship than we can imagine FAME

DERICK of Prussia's sword to have been FREDERICK himself. He might be a very good instrument in the hand of others, but when he makes others his own instruments, the order of things is reversed, the cocked-hat puts on the man instead of the man the cocked-hat, and we have reason to look about and wonder what will become of us. Even the friends of His ROYAL HIGHNESS, even those who dedicate books to him and have therefore the best opportunities for adulation, dare not talk about his military skill; they fancy probabilities but they forget proofs; they talk of the Military Asylum, which really does him honour, and they doat on his love of business, which is certainly something surprising in a brother of the PRINCE of WALES, as well as highly refreshing after the company of stupid mistresses; but they mention nothing of DUNKIRK and the HELDER, they say nothing of his exploits and successes, and they give him no advice to return to the Continent, though every body there, from Marseilles to Petersburgh, has honoured him with the appellation of *the Invincible Duke*. His military wisdom therefore, whatever it is, must be something supernatural, since even his very worshippers cannot see it. His ROYAL HIGHNESS has heard of French Flanders:—at Bruges in that territory there is a very ancient relic, which consists of one of the groans of Saint JOSEPH in high preservation: the Saint, as every body knows, was by trade a carpenter, and in his task of cutting or sawing would of course fetch those robust sighs which are said to give such relief to paviors and other labourers: one of these sighs or groans it appears, was snatched up by a by-stander, clapped into a phial, and after many ages brought from Judea to Bruges, where it is publicly shewn to the mind's eye on great festivals, and still goes by the name of *Le Hau de Saint Joseph*—or Saint JOSEPH's *Hogh!* The name is easier to be coughed than written.—Perhaps at a place not very distant from Bruges, one may find all the military wisdom of his ROYAL HIGHNESS preserved in the same manner and with the same admirable visibility. Wherever it is, the persons interested in the miracle, will do well to keep down the cork and not suffer it to *go out*. The genie in the tale was a very harmless personage, as long as he was imprisoned in a jug—as long as he was *confined to his bottle*,—but when SOLOMON's seal was broken and he was suffered to escape, he issued forth in a malignant vapour, and employed his first freedom in threatening the destruction of his preserver.

But I will employ no more time, Gentlemen, *at present*, on a subject, in which ridicule is really the best argument and argument itself becomes ridiculous. I called on you some time ago to warn you of the probability of the DUKE's expedition, and to point out the only method of preventing it, in case the Ministry should be compelled into the measure. Let us give the Ministers credit for a wish to be supported against it: their long refusal, their experience of Conventions, their common sense as men of reflection, demand this liberality on our parts; and if they seem inclined to sacrifice their duty to petitions, let us change the aspect of things, and make it their duty to *grant petitions*. Let us save them from the reproach of our enemy, who will say of Mr. CANNING as CATHARINE said of Mr. PITT on the *very same occasion*, "I see the Minister loves his place better than his country." Nothing official has been announced on the subject, but the most moderate people begin to be alarmed, and if the public keep a lazy silence, they may be taken by surprize. I will not say there is a great deal of impudence in thus pressing a most obnoxious appointment, for I am willing to make allowances for a great deal of ignorance; but I will say that *somewhere or other*, either with the DUKE or his encouragers, there is a great want of common delicacy and a gross disregard of the unanimous feelings of the nation. No, no, Gentlemen, we have no time for ceremony towards those who treat a whole people with so little themselves.

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, SEPT. 20.—At the last parade on the 11th inst. when the advanced guard of the Grand Army was present, his Majesty ordered the troops to be formed in close columns, and the officers being assembled, he spoke as follows:—

"Soldiers! after having triumphed on the banks of the Danube and the Vistula, you have passed through Germany by forced marches. I shall now order you to march through France, without allowing you a moment's rest.

"Soldiers! I have occasion for you. The hideous presence of the Leopard contaminates the continent of Spain and Portugal. Let your aspect terrify and drive him from thence. Let us carry our conquering eagles even to the pillars of Hercules. *There also we have an injury to avenge.*

"Soldiers! you have exceeded the fame of all modern warriors. You have placed yourselves on a level with the Roman legions, who in one campaign were conquerors on the Rhine, the Euphrates, in Illyria, and on the Tagus.

"A durable peace, and permanent prosperity, shall be the fruits of your exertions. A true Frenchman can never enjoy any rest till the sea is open and free.

"Soldiers! all that you have already achieved, and what still remains to be done, will be for the happiness of the French people and my glory, and shall be for ever imprinted in my heart."

SEPT. 22.—The *Moniteur* of this day contains the following English news:—

"LONDON, SEPT. 9.—We have received accounts from Portugal of three different battles between our army and the French troops, on the 16th, 17th, and 21st of August. Our loss consists of a number of superior officers, together with 400 killed and 600 wounded. The French fought with the greatest valour. On the 17th our head-quarters were at Villaverde, and after a retrograde movement, we were attacked on the 21st, in our position at

Vimiera. The attack of the French was very brisk. The 20th regiment of dragoons is nearly destroyed. The corps under the command of Colonels Lake and Taylor suffered considerably. These two brave officers were killed. We had scarcely any cavalry, but that of the enemy was numerous. The French took from us four or five hundred prisoners. After the battle on the 21st we collected our force on the coast near Maceira. The French remained in their position, where they appeared to be strengthening themselves; and for 18 days since this bloody action was fought, there has been nothing but skirmishes. We have already a great number of sick. The dispatches relating to the battles of the 17th and 21st, transmitted by Gen. Wellesley, go into a very long detail. The 13 pieces of cannon which we took upon our march were of iron, and which the French advanced posts had fetched out of the castles. These trophies are not of great value. The cavalry of the French is formidable, and it is said they have 60 pieces of flying artillery. We have reason to suppose that our infantry must be much more numerous than theirs; particularly after the arrival of Gen. Moore; but it is also true, that the Duke of Abrantes has converted all the posts from St. Julien into an entrenched camp, in which he has planted 500 pieces of artillery; and that he has collected provisions for six months. Should we be able to drive him out of this position, it is probable he will throw himself into the entrenched camp that covers Lisbon. It is the opinion of judicious persons that we run some danger of being surrounded from the Douro, and that our dispositions have been made too late. We forgot to say, and we mention it with pain, that Gen. Spencer's corps is quite destroyed; while the Duke of Abrantes had only a part of his force in the field on the 21st."

[*EXTRACT FROM THE TIMES OF THE 9TH AND 10TH.*]

"No news from Portugal since the battle of the 21st at Vimiera. (*a*)

"We have sent a reinforcement of three ships of the line into the Baltic.

"An express has been sent to Sir D. Baird at Cork, with orders for him to sail immediately. (*b*)

"The troops have orders to leave their baggage behind, and the soldiers not in a condition to go with the expedition are to remain at Fernoy.

"According to the latest intelligence from Paris, Napoleon has declared in his official paper that he would make use of force, and that the affairs of Spain were irrevocably fixed. The Spaniards will have no reason now to complain of the treachery of their enemy (*c*). Treachery having failed, he flies to undisguised violence, and the Spaniards will certainly avail themselves of this profitable observation, in order to attend only to the danger of their situation, and to extinguish any petty cavils and personal jealousies which would be fatal to the common cause.

"We hope the Spaniards will soon be in a situation to support the great contest, and our honour calls upon us to assist them with all our force. It is time for us to wipe off the stain with which our character is aspersed, of suffering our allies to perish for want of prompt and adequate assistance. Our enemy's forces are every where in motion.—Eighty thousand of his veterans are passing the Pyrenees, and the English troops have already shewn they are not afraid to face them. All depend upon the energy of Ministers (*d*).

"We have received Dutch Papers to the 9th.—The French troops in the Prussian territories are marching to France, and will certainly proceed to Spain.—Bonaparte must either place the most implicit confidence in the pacific disposition of the Emperor Francis, or entertain the greatest contempt for his mental energy and military power. It is not unlikely, also, that he reckons upon the co-operation of Russia, and that the army which is assembled on the frontiers of Poland is meant to controul Austria (*e*).

"A vessel arrived from Malta has brought an account of a gallant and most successful action fought by the Seahorse frigate, Capt. Stewart, off the Dardanelles, with three Turkish frigates, one of which carried 50 guns, and the two others 44 each. That of 50 guns was taken and brought into Malta. One of the forty-fours was sunk, and the other escaped. The Turks are said to have had 200 killed and 300 wounded. We had six killed and five wounded (*f*)."

(*a*) You have no news, but only that your head-quarters were at Villaverde, and afterwards fell back upon Maceira on the sea shore. This is no symptom of victory.

(*b*) The English are obliged to send reinforcements to their army in Portugal; and if we could believe them they are to be looked upon as conquerors. How could they do otherwise when they were beaten? This circumstance, added to their confession that their head-quarters had been removed backwards, leaves no doubt as to the result of affairs.

(*c*) Treachery is one of those things that the French know nothing of. It only belongs to the weak. Looking to the French army in Spain, it will be seen that they have only had too much confidence. Were not the garrisons of Barcelona, Pampeluna, and St. Sebastian, in Madrid, surrounded by the French army? And if the army had paid the least attention to a prudent foresight, would they not have disarmed the troops of the line, dismounted the cavalry, and secured the officers as hostages?

The Marquis De Romana deceived the Prince of Ponte Corvo, because suspicion forms no part of the French character. The Spaniard suffered himself to be seduced by the misrepresentations of the English. He has broken his oath, but his dishonour is the best encomium upon French integrity.

(*d*) They say that General Wellesley is in Portugal with a repectable force; General Junot, apprised of his march, and the circumstances attending it, has taken measures to procure provisions, and connect his defence with that of the Russian squadron. Nothing can be more agreeable to the French upon the Continent than to see the English at last throwing off the mask, and entering the lists in their own proper persons. Would to God that 80,000, that a 100,000 English would present themselves before us in the open field. The Continent has at all times been their grave. As long as they are secure of a retreat in their ships, the English people will only affect to deplore the calamities of war. Their gold is wet with tears and blood.

(*e*) Curious speculations these! Yes, more than two hundred thousand shall pass the Pyrenees, and still France shall maintain, for the defence of herself and her allies, upwards of four hundred thousand in Italy and Germany. Russia is the ally of France. She stands in the same degree of declared enmity to England that France does; and in the mean time the English cannot perceive, without astonishment, that the Russian armies should unite with the French if necessary.

To this ridiculous reasoning the English add a supposition still more absurd. The Emperor of Austria and the Austrian nation will have nothing to do with you. The example of Sweden has taught them what is to be expected from your alliance. The nations of the Continent, whether they conquer or are conquered, ever respect each other. You only are the object of their aversion.

(*f*) What a brilliant triumph is this! What mischief have the Turks done you, that you should declare war against them? Their crime has been, that they did not

suffer you to burn their Seraglio and their Capital. If you continue your system of self-interest, hypocrisy, and treason; if you assist your new allies sincerely, and at the hazard of your entire force, then we may easily predict to all Europe, that your subjection is at no great distance, and that it will very shortly follow the annihilation of your armies.

Sept. 22.—This day the first column of the Grand Army, commanded by Marshal Victor, arrived in this city. The Council of State, the Prefect of the Department of the Seine, the Members of the Municipality, and General Hallin, went out to meet them.—Marshal Victor placed himself at their head, surrounded by his Officers and the Standard-bearers, when the Prefect addressed him, and the officers and soldiers, in a speech, in which he recalled to his and their attention their former exploits. In gratitude for these splendid services, his Imperial Majesty has graciously allowed us to offer you these crowns, with which to adorn the Eagle that is now about to conduct you to new conquests. The Prefect next complimented the troops, and told them that the Great City presented them with these as rewards of their former, and pledges of their future glorious toils; and, at the same time, as tokens of the esteem and good wishes of the Great City. They have fought for and conquered the Peace of the North—they have now to fight for that of the South; and then the world will enjoy freedom and peace. The hearts of the Great City had followed you to the borders of the Danube and the Vistula: they will now follow you to those of the Ebro and the Tagus.—Marshal Victor made an appropriate reply, and promised that his soldiers would acquire new claims to the gratitude of the great people, and the favour of Napoleon the Great, and concluded with exclaiming—*Long live the Emperor*—Upon which, Long live the Emperor resounded from all sides.—The Prefect then proceeded to present the golden crowns, which were immediately affixed to the standards, while martial music played around. After the conclusion of the ceremony, the column entered into Paris, and proceeded to the Gardens of Tivoli, where the Municipality had prepared a sumptuous fete, and where 2000 covers were laid out for the brave warriors.

Paris, Sept. 23.—This morning, at five o'clock, the Emperor, accompanied by the Secretary of State, the Duke of Frioul, Messrs. Remusat and Nansouty, set out from St. Cloud, on a journey. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Russian Ambassador had set out the day before.

PRUSSIA.

Koningsberg, Sept. 16.—On Sunday or Monday next the Emperor Alexander, with his brother Constantine, and their mutual friend Caulincourt, are expected here on their way to Erfurth, where they are to have a meeting with Napoleon. Constantine, it is said, goes thither with a very ill will; but the Emperor insisted on it. All our politicians are at a loss to conjecture the result of the interview, which may indeed be very important; but at the same time it appears extremely singular, that at a moment when the French party in Russia is said to be tottering, the chief support of it should quit the country, and this at the desire of Bonaparte, who is most concerned. The diplomatic affairs of the French at St. Petersburgh will, in the mean time, be managed by the Chevalier de Bray, an emigrant, who is Bavarian Minister at the Russian Court, and a great intriguer, of which he gave proofs when Minister at Berlin. The Emperor of Austria has also received, through Duroc, who was sent to Vienna for that purpose, an invitation to be of the party, but it is thought he will decline it, and as it is said, through the influence of the Empress, who is represented as very high spirited.

SPAIN.

[*FROM THE PATRIOTIC PAPERS.*]

Madrid, Sept. 17.—Yesterday passed through this city the division of Senor Coupigni, consisting of 10,000 men, which is on its march for Soria. To-day entered that of Senor Reding, commanded by Senor Venegas, which is said to amount to 11,000 men. It is said, that to-morrow 1000 men of the Walloon Guards, with some other troops of this garrison, will leave this city; and that on the day following the division which entered to-day will again set out.

EXTRAORDINARY GAZETTE.

The Government of this kingdom has just received by express, the following Official Report from the Commander in Chief of the Army of Gallicia:—

"MOST SERENE LORD,

"By a private letter which I have received from Major Gen. Marquis de Portazgo, written yesterday in Bilboa, the said General advises me of his having entered that town the same morning, after an engagement which lasted three hours, and our loss in which was but very trifling. He bestows much praise on the conduct of his division, and promises to send me as speedily as possible the particulars of the above operation.

"The inhabitants received the Spanish troops with peculiar joy, and proceeded immediately to proclaim Ferdinand VII. I think it right to communicate to you the above intelligence, although I am not yet able to give a detailed account, which I am expecting every moment. God preserve your Highness many years,

"JOACHIM BLAKE."

"*Head-quarters, Trespadune, Sept.* 21."

MADRID GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY, Sept. 14

The Gazette of this day contains a letter from Gen. Joseph Gulluzo, commander in Chief in Estramadura, to Gen. Castanos, in which he informs him that in consequence of the capitulation of the French army in Portugal, the Spanish army of 12,000 men, with a train of artillery, which was stationed at Badajoz, to watch the enemy at Yelves, is now at liberty to proceed to Castile, to co-operate in the general defence of the nation.

Sept. 21.—The Deputies who are to form the Central Junta of Government, for the appointment of a Regent of the Kingdom, are already assembled, we are informed, at Aranjeuz, where they are to open their sittings on the 24th. It is reasonably conjectured that it will be composed of the following personages, viz.—

His Eminence Cardinal de Bourbon, Archbishop of Toledo, Regent. (1.)
His Excellency the Count de Florida Blanca. (2.)
His Excellency Don Francisco de Saavedra. (3.)
His Excellency Don Pedro Cevallos. (4.)
His Excellency Don Gaspar de Jovellanos. (5.)

The appointment of his Eminence to be the Head

of the Kingdom is intended to prevent every kind of embarrassing etiquette or misunderstanding, and to evince that a Bourbon still remains in Spain.

No. 1. His Eminence is the son of the late Infanto Don Louis, uncle to Charles IV. who in the reign of the late Charles III. his brother, married a private Lady, of a distinguished family, Dina Maria de Vallebriga y Drammond (related on the maternal side to the unfortunate family of Stuart), by whom his Royal Highness had the Cardinal and two daughters: one of these the infamous Godoy contrived by his intrigues to espouse.

No. 2. The oldest and best Statesman of Spain, but now unfortunately very old. The Count was favourite Minister to Charles III. but on account of his integrity, shamefully disgraced and cruelly persecuted by Godoy, notwithstanding the solemn promise extorted on his deathbed by that Monarch from his Son, of never dispensing with the services of Florida Blanca.

No. 3. Some years back Minister of State, afterwards disgraced by Godoy.

No. 4. Late Minister of State, and who has acquired immortal honour by his loyalty and patriotism in resisting every temptation, despising every threat, and evincing stoical firmness before Napoleon, notwithstanding being married to a niece of Godoy.

No. 5. Some years back Minister of Justice and Favour, a very enlightened Statesman, disgraced and cruelly persecuted by Godoy.

Sept. 27.—General Cuesta is named Commander-in-Chief of the army of Arragon and Castile, at the request of General Palafox. Major-General Lord William Bentinck arrived here the day before yesterday.

Cadiz, Sept. 9.—Admiral Rossily, who commanded the French squadron surrendered in this port, has been taken by the English and carried into Malta.—Gen. Dupont, who with his whole Staff had also embarked for France, has likewise been captured by the English, and conducted with his Staff to Gibraltar.

Carralejas, Sept. 11.—The French are passing through every part of the Rioja, carrying with them destruction and desolation. The main body of that army, which consists of more that 30,000 men, is at the city of Naxera. In Burgos there are about 800, and rather fewer in Bribiesca. In the whole they are above 40,000, and occupy the whole bank of the Ebro.

Oviedo, Sept. 15.—The Deputies from all the provinces to the Central Junta are arrived at Madrid, where, according to the recommendation of the Conde De Florida Blanca, the saloon of the Ambassadors, in the royal palace, is preparing for their reception, as the most proper place for holding the Session. This Assembly, considered in any point of view, will be the most respectable and august that Spain has ever seen. The Supreme Authority is concentrated in one point, and the whole nation will hear with pleasure the voice of their Deputies, and obey their orders.

Corunna, Oct. 1.—Burgos was evacuated on the 22d ult, by the French, after spiking their artillery, and destroying their powder. The next operation will be against St. Sebastian. From the situation of affairs, a great battle must soon take place, unless the French retire altogether. Reinforcements are pouring in upon Blake's army every day. To-morrow we expect 30,000 troops, part of which are English; and some from Portugal are on their way to join him.—The Archbishop of Toledo (Don Louis de Bourbon, nephew to Charles IV. and cousin to Ferdinand) will, it is thought, be elected Regent of the Kingdom.—The Conde de Floridablanca, who has been chosen President *ad interim*, is a man greatly attached to the English. The Spanish troops under the Marquis de la Romana arrived off this harbour last night, and have been ordered for Cantandar and Bilboa.

PORTUGAL.

LETTER WRITTEN BY THE CAMP MARSHAL GEN. BERNARDINE FRIERE DE ANDRADA, DATED AT HEAD-QUARTERS AT MAFRA, SEPT. 6.

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency, a copy of a letter from Gen. Murray, which I have this moment received, and which certainly corresponds with the opinion I have always entertained on the conduct of our allies. Our flag is hoisted on the Tower of St. Julian, and it is garrisoned by the regiment of artillery of Corte. The Admiral commanding the Russian squadron has sent his compliments on the occasion. And thus, Sir, we hope, under Providence, that nothing will obstruct the prosecution of our endeavours, and the sincere intentions with which so many men of honour and property have engaged in the service of our Prince and country.—I am, &c.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM GEN. MURRAY, ABOVE REFERRED TO.

After my arrival in the camp, I have just received a letter from the Adjutant General, written under an idea that I should have the honour to see you; but as this will not take place as soon as I could wish, I must address you in writing. The Adjutant General assures me, in the name of the General, that it was merely through a mistake that the English flag was hoisted on Fort St. Julian; that nothing could be more distant from his intentions; and that the moment he was apprised of it, he caused it to be taken down, and the Portuguese to be placed in its stead. It would certainly have been better if this had not occurred, but I trust that your Excellency, and the Portuguese nation, will be satisfied it proceeded only from a mistake. I am further to inform your Excellency, that there is now in the Fort St. Julian a body of Portuguese artillery, which had been in the French service. It appears to me from the tenor of the letter that the General thinks it advisenble to remove it from thence, but he at the same time directs me to request your Excellency's opinion and wishes on this subject. I cannot conclude without expressing to your Excellency my sense of your obliging attention since my corps has been united with yours, and to assure you that I am, &c. MURRAY.

General Friere de Andrada. In Camp, Sept. 5.

PROCLAMATION,

BY HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUT.-GEN. SIR HEW DALRYMPLE, COMMANDING THE BRITISH FORCES IN PORTUGAL, TO THE PORTUGUESE NATION.

The success with which it has pleased Almighty God to bless the British arms, has brought about the moment when it becomes my duty to address the faithful and loyal inhabitants of this country. I seize the opportunity with eagerness, in order to tranquillize the minds of the timid, to repress the designs of the disaffected (if any such remain), and to assure the nation at large, that the efforts of the British force under my command have no other object in view than to insure the prosperity of the inhabitants of Portugal, by the restoration of that Government which has so long and so gloriously presided over them, and the return of which will be welcomed, no doubt, by the united voice of a loyal people.

The presence of an hostile army, in possession of the capital, and master of the principal resources of the kingdom, had in a manner deprived the estimable and loyal subjects of Portugal of the means of liberating their country. Patriotic efforts, however, were made in spite of these disadvantages, and the national spirit was manifested in a manner at once most decided and most honourable.

The efforts which were made by the several provinces of the kingdom opened the road for the restoration of the Monarchy.

Notwithstanding, however, the energy displayed by these Provinces in arraying and bringing forward an armed force for the liberation of the capital, the aid of the antient and faithful ally of Portugal was necessary to bring the contest to a successful and speedy issue. The warm interest which his Britannic Majesty felt for his ally, and the energy which has ever marked the British character, soon brought a powerful force to the shores of Portugal.

That part of the Portuguese army which circumstances permitted, united itself with the British, whilst the remainder effected a powerful diversion. Measures were taken in concert for the defeat of the common enemy. The steps of that force have been marked by victory, and the expulsion of the enemy has opened the way to the restoration of the Portuguese Monarchy, the most gratifying duty which could be imposed by his Sovereign on a British Commander.

No views of national interest or aggrandizement can be traced in the liberal policy of Britain; but, true to the principles of honour and good faith, that has ever directed her conduct, she sees, in the events now passing in Portugal, only the happy means of re-establishing order, and restoring to the Sovereign and the People their just right.

In the execution of these views as Commander of the British Forces, I shall best fulfil the intentions of the King my Master, and most effectually secure the interests of Portugal, by placing in the exercise of authority that body to which his Royal Highness the Prince Regent thought fit to delegate the sovereign power, when he withdrew the royal dignity from the insults of an implacable enemy, and preserved the sovereignty of his dominions beyond the Atlantic.

One respectable Nobleman, a member of the body thus left in power by his Royal Highness, has unfortunately been removed from his country, by the authority or arts of its enemy, by which at this critical period it is deprived of his services, whilst some of the members having appeared to unite themselves with the French interest, have rendered their re-establishment in the Government at this moment impossible.

Therefore the distinguished persons undermentioned, the remaining Members of the Regency appointed by his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and who have incurred no such disability, are called upon to repair to Lisbon to take upon themselves the functions of the Government, until such time as the will of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent shall be more fully known, viz.

The Count De Castro Marim, Monteiro Mor of the Kingdom, and Member of the Councils of his Royal Highness.

Don Francisco Xavier de Noronha, Member of the Councils of his Royal Highness, and Grao Cruz da Ordem de Sant-Iago, President of the Board of Conscience, and Lieutenant General of the Royal Armies.

Franciscodo de Cunhae Menezes, Member of the Councils of his Royal Highness, and Lieutenant General in the Royal Armies.

Joro Antonio Salter de Mendonca, Desembargador do Paco, and Procurador of the Crown.

Don Miguel Pereira Forjaz Coutinho, Member of the Councils of his Royal Highness, and Brigadeiro in the Royal Armies.

To this Government the inferior Jurisdictions and Tribunals, the Constituted and legal Authorities of the Kingdom, and all persons of every description are required to pay all deference and submission.

As Commander of the British Forces, I shall hold it to be my [illegible] most urgent duty to maintain the authority of the Government thus established, to insure the tranquillity of the capital, and to encourage the restoration of the former prosperity of the kingdom.

When these objects are attained, and the attainment of them can only be delayed by intrigue or disaffection, the interference of a military force will cease to be necessary, but until these ends are accomplished, the most vigorous and decisive measures will be taken for maintaining the peace and good order of the country, and all offences against the tranquillity of any part of the kingdom will be proceeded against with the utmost severity.

Given at the Head-quarters of the British Army at Prayas, this 18th day of September, 1808.

(Signed) HEW DALRYMPLE,
Lieut.-Gen. and Commander of the British Forces in Portugal.

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.

Lisbon, September 19.

"In my last of the 10th inst. I gave you some account of the outrages committed by the French in this country, and shall now give you a faithful narrative of what has passed since their fall. After the second defeat of the French on the 21st, at Torres Vedras, Gen. Junot came into Lisbon with 3000 troops, which had not participated in the engagement. They looked cheerful, and were received with a salute from the Castle, so that every one thought the French had obtained a signal triumph, which cast a gloom over the city, and produced a sullen silence, which lasted for some days, when the people began to reflect, that as the French General had refrained from publishing an official account of the late battles, they could have nothing to say in favour of their termination. In the mean time his lines were so closely formed around the town, that no satisfactory intelligence could be obtained, notwithstanding the scene of action was not more than 20 English miles distant. At length, however, some country people stole in during the night, and reported the result of the battle of the 21st, which was the more credited as the French officers began to conduct themselves with more moderation and civility to the inhabitants than had been their custom before.

"Colonel Murray came to head-quarters to negociate, when thousands of the poor inhabitants ran thither to meet him; and their countenances best spoke their feelings in beholding a British officer in the oppressed capital of Portugal. It was soon reported, what has since proved true, that the French were allowed 25 days for the evacuation of Portugal. This intelligence was far from delighting the people, and the more so when it became known that the enemy were not to be considered prisoners of war, and to be allowed to carry off their booty. The whole army, we soon learned, reviled their Generals for not compelling every man of the enemy to surrender at discretion, which was completely within their means, if they had chosen to exert them.

"Sir Arthur Wellesley, after defeating them on the 21st, could, according to all accounts, have surrounded them with much ease. Gen. Junot, it is said, perplexed our Commanders with stipulations; and it would seem so much so, that at last they suffered him to make his own terms. Had the British army followed up their victory, and proceeded to Lisbon, they would have made the whole army prisoners. Forty thousand stand of French arms, 52 pieces of brass artillery, ammunition, waggons, horses, &c. would have fallen into their hands. Above all, what chagrins our soldiers is, the losing of the plunder in the haversacks of the enemy; for the French had just returned from sacking many of the richest towns in the interior; some of those that were killed had money, rings, watches, chains, crosses, &c. in their sacks, to the value of 1000l.

"After the terms of capitulation had been agreed upon, the French came from all their out-stations, and prepared for their departure; the English advanced, and lay in different places near the town, where they suffered innumerable hardships until the expiration of the 25 days; and as

many of them had not their camp equipage, they slept in the open fields like so many sheep. The division under General Spencer came up, and lay more than a week in an open plain, a few miles from the town. The morning after their halt, I rose while it was dark, and taking with me a German friend, we went out to meet them. In the front were 800 Riflemen, in fine dark-green uniforms. About a quarter of a mile further, on the right, lay the 79th regiment (Cameronian Highlanders)—a body of men, I conceive, not inferior to any in existence: they were then nearly all asleep, on the grass. They were about 1200 strong after the battle; and these were the men the French so much dreaded the sight of; and I do not wonder at it, for even when asleep, they made my friend, the German, tremble. To be sure, they had not been under cover for some weeks, and their grim faces and hairy knees are well calculated to excite fear. In the centre of the ground was another regiment of Highlanders; most of the other troops were Irish. Generals Spencer and Cameron had the use of two small tents; all the rest, without distinction, lay on the ground. When the Officers awoke, I gave them all the information I could respecting Lisbon, &c. They took possession of a square in the suburbs until the morning of the 15th, when they entered the city, and caused the happiest day Lisbon ever saw.

"As the English came in the French retired, leaving their tents standing, to impose on the people. When at the river side they were surrounded by the British horse and foot. The air rung with acclamations of joy, in welcoming the red coats. Many of the French Officers who had straggled from the town were mal-treated, and some lost their lives. I saw a French Surgeon killed by a stone which struck him on the temple. The body was carried into a tent by a part of the German Legion. The last of the French were conducted by bands of horse and foot to the place of embarkation; and notwithstanding this protection, it was with great difficulty they could be preserved from the rage of the people.

"At twelve o'clock, the flag of Portugal was hoisted on the Castle, with a grand discharge of cannon. At this moment the people rent the air with shouts of joy. Rockets were let off, and the rejoicings continued until the day closed, when the whole city was most superbly illuminated.

"The Spanish troops that were made prisoners by Junot, in the hulks, were the same day disembarked, and joined in the fete, and danced fandangos in the streets.

"The paintings and devices in praise of England were numerous. Outrages were committed by the people against some persons known to be in the French interest. The mob went to a bookseller's shop, and destroyed every thing in it. The house in which Junot had resided would have been entirely demolished, but for the interference of the English.

"The illumination began on the 15th, and was expected to be continued for nine nights."

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

At Uxbridge Fair, on Friday se'nnight, a Gentleman engaged two young women, sisters, as servants. On referring for character, &c. he discovered them to be *his nieces*, to whom he was unknown, he having for many years been in India. He carried them home to a condition more happy than they had anticipated.

There is now living at Tutbury, in Staffordshire, a woman named Ann Moore, who has, it is confidently reported, taken no sustenance for a year and a half. A watch, under medical direction, has sat day and night, since Tuesday the 13th ult. and the investigation, we are assured, is at present in her favour!!!—(*Derby Mercury.*)

A few evenings ago, a young woman who was servant to a Gentleman between 60 and 70 years of age, at Denham, near Eye, in Suffolk, delivered herself of a child. She then cut off its head, and afterwards its arms, legs, and thighs at the different joints, and put it in a handkerchief. The next morning she endeavoured to pursue her domestic avocations as usual, but was taken ill and under the necessity of going to bed. At four o'clock that afternoon she expired. Previous to her dissolution, however, the handkerchief and its contents were shewn her. She then confessed that the child was her own, and that she was the sole perpetrator of the horrid and unnatural deed.

Woolwich Ghost.—The supposed appearance of a Ghost or supernatural blue lights in the Rigging-house at Woolwich, has been explained in the following manner in a letter from a person employed in the Dock-yard:—"It has been clearly ascertained to arise from the reflection of a light upon the windows from an *apple-stall*, on the rising ground opposite, called Parson's-hill, a little to the Eastward of the Church-yard; and the cause of it sometimes appearing at one window and sometimes at the other, was owing to the customers stopping to purchase fruit, who, during that time, took up different positions, so as sometimes to impede the light, and at others to admit of it freely reflecting upon the windows."

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, Oct. 4.

Copy of a Letter transmitted by Vice-Admiral Campbell.

His Majesty's Sloop Beagle, at Sea, Oct. 1.

Sir—I beg leave to acquaint you that from the violence of the gale yesterday, I was compelled to stand over on the English Coast from my station off Boulogne; and at eleven *p. m.* the Beagle fell in with and captured, after a chace of three hours, Le Hazard French privateer, of 14 guns and 49 men, commanded by Joseph Marie Le Long, the South Foreland then bearing N. E. by E. about four leagues. One of their men received a mortal wound. It appears she sailed from Dieppe yesterday morning; and, in the early part of the night, captured the two light colliers named in the margin*; the master and mate of the latter was on board the lugger. My pursuit of the captured vessels was fruitless, from our being many leagues to leeward, and five hours had elapsed since their falling into the hands of the enemy. I have the honour, &c.

Francis Newcombe.

To Commodore Owen, &c. &c. &c.

* Trinity Yacht and Assistance.

BANKRUPTCIES ENLARGED.

D. Mendes, Harrow-street, Gravel-lane, Houndsditch, army accoutrement-maker, from Oct. 4, to Nov. 1, at ten, at Guildhall.

R. Robinson, Manchester, cotton twist and weft dealer, from Oct. 8, to Oct. 29, at ten, at Guildhall, London.

J. S. Smith, Liverpool, shoemaker, from Oct. 4, to Oct. 26, at ten, at Guildhall, London.

M. F. Brooks, Horsleydown, mariner, from Oct. 8, to Oct. 26, at ten, at Guildhall.

W. Lindill, Leeds, spirit-merchant, from Oct. 4, to Oct. 26, at ten, at Guildhall.

BANKRUPTS.

N. Humphreys, Shoreditch, linen-draper, to surrender Oct. 15, 22, Nov. 15, at ten, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Kibblewhite, Rowland, and Robinson, Gray's-Inn-place.

S. Davis, Upper St. Martin's-lane, cabinet-maker, Oct. 5, 22, Nov. 15, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Howard, Jewry-street, Aldgate.

J. Harris, Rathbone-place, goldsmith, Oct. 8, 25, Nov. 15, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Croft, Carey-street.

A. Christian, High-street, Mary-le-bone, pawnbroker, Oct. 15, 22, Nov. 15, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Turner, Edward-street, Cavendish-square.

S. Scott, Cannon-street, factor, Oct. 8, 25, Nov, 15, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Adams, Old Jewry.

H. Clayton, Redwalls, Lancaster, manufacturer, Oct, 24, 25, Nov, 15, at two, at the Pack Horse, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Foulker, Manchester.

W. Pearson, Old Painshaw, Durham, grocer, Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 15, at eleven, at the Shakespear Tavern, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Attorney, Mr. Forster, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

J. Ellis, Liverpool, hat-manufacturer, Oct, 25, 26, Nov, 15, at one, at the Globe Tavern, Liverpool. Attorney, Mr. Ascroft, Liverpool,

W. Bate, Exeter, haberdasher, Oct. 6, 7, Nov, 15, at eleven, at the Star Inn, Exeter. Attorney, Mr. Turner, Exeter,

J. Sowden and J. Hodgson, Leeds, oil-merchants, Oct. 17, 18, Nov, 15, at the Star and Garter, Leeds. Attorney, Mr. Shelton, Leeds,

W. G. Smith, Billingford, Norfolk, maltster, Oct, 24, at four, 25, Nov. 15, at ten, at the Swan, Harleston, Attorney, Mr. Kingsbury, Bungay,

R. Tate, Manchester, grocer, Oct, 18, 20, Nov, 15, at two, at the Bridgewater Arms, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Hilton, Manchester,

DIVIDENDS.

Nov. 1. J. Hurry, Nag's Head-court, Gracechurch-street, merchant.—Nov. 8. A. I, Bing, Great Prescot-street, Goodman's-fields, merchant.—Nov 8. J. P. Holloway, St. Swithin's-lane, wine-merchant.—Nov. 8. R. Whalley, Cullam-street, Fenchurch-street, brandy-merchant. Nov. 5. P. Lindsey, Greenwich, baker.—Nov. 8. W. C. Johnson and J. Wiltshire, Huntingdon, drapers.—Oct, 25. H. Lewis and W. Chambers, Rathbone-place, Oxford-street, shopkeepers.—Oct. 29. J. Critchley and W, Jones, Orford, cotton-spinners.—Nov. 12. W. P. Meeker, Basinghall-street, merchant.—Oct. 25. T. Hurrell, Conduit-street, tailor.—Oct. 25, S, Orpwood, Fleet-street, tailor.—Nov. 5. G. Bowker and J. Chapman, Manchester, corn-dealers.—Oct 28. W. Brown, Liverpool, tailor.—Nov, 5. B. Harrop, Saddleworth, Yorkshire, manufacturer.—Oct. 28. P. Lister, Slater-Ing, Yorkshire, cotton-spinner.—Oct, 29. A. Lister, Marsh Chapel, Lincolnshire, grocer.—Nov, 10. M. and E. Jones, Wrexham, drapers.—Oct. 25. T. Clift, Westbury, Wilts, clothier.

CERTIFICATES—Oct. 25.

J. Chadwick, Manchester, dyer.—W. Bryon, St. Mary at Hill, wine-merchant.—J. Rickards, Colchester, wine-merchant.—J. Pickman, Deptford, merchant.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Foreign Office, October 8, 1808.

The King has been pleased to nominate and appoint the Right Honourable John Hookham Frere to be his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to his Catholic Majesty Ferdinand the Seventh; and has been pleased to direct him to reside in that character at the seat of the Central and Supreme Junta in Spain.

Downing-street, October 8, 1808.

His Majesty has been pleased to appoint Lieutenant-General George Beckwith to be Governor and Commander in Chief of the Island of Barbadoes—Sir Charles Brisbane, Knt. Captain in the Royal Navy, to be Governor and Commander in Chief of the Island of St. Vincent—Hugh Elliot, Esq. to be Captain-General and Governor of the Leeward Islands—And William Woodley, Esq. to be Lieutenant-Governor of Berbice.

[This Gazette contains also an account of the capture of the Danish privateer Don Finkke, of 6 guns and 24 men, by the Basilisk gun-vessel, Lieut, Balfour.]

BANKRUPTS.

C. Schindler, Bartlett's-buildings, Holborn, merchant, to surrender Oct, 21, at two, 22, Nov. 19, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Rosser, Red Lion-square.

W, Lawson, Sunderland, sail-maker, Nov. 4, 5, 19, at eleven, at the Bridge Inn, Bishopswearmouth. Attorney, Mr. Laws, Sunderland.

H. Jones, Skinner-street, cheesemonger, Oct. 15, 22, Nov. 19, at twelve, at Guildhall, Attornies, Messrs. Willett and Co. Finsbury-square,

G. Hall, Queen-street, London, silk manufacturer, Oct, 25, 26, at nine, Nov. 19, at one, at Guildhall, Attorney, Mr. Coote, Austin-Friars.

DIVIDENDS.

Nov, 26 W. Wright, Borough High-street, plumber.—Oct. 31, F. Tadman, Beverley, scrivener.—Nov. 12, E. Blackmore, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden, taylor.—Nov. 12. T. Grover, Kingston-upon-Thames, post-master.—Nov. 19. W. Altham, Tokenhouse-yard, broker.—Oct. 29. J. Crossley, King-street, London, merchant.—Nov. 12. M. Moore, Albemarle-street, fancy-dress-maker.—Nov. 12. W. Hooton, Knightsbridge, coach-maker.—Nov, 12. S. Lawton, Grappenhall, Chester, butcher.—Dec, 7. H. Wilcock, and J. Wilcock, Manchester, stay-makers.—Jan. 14, W. Bulgin, Bristol, printer.—Nov. 29. S. Pears, Bread-street, London, warehouseman—J. Watson, J. Watson, the younger, and J. Watson, of Preston, cotton-manufacturers.—Nov. 12, J. Bullock, Scot's-Yard, Bush-lane, wine and spirit-merchant.—Oct, 29, R. Barry, Birmingham, factor.—Oct, 31. J. Feldwicke, the elder, Brighthelmston, shoe-maker.—Nov, 12. J. Hurdis, Seaford, apothecary.—Nov. 12. R. Poole, Prospect Place, St. George's Fields, linen-draper,

CERTIFICATES—Oct. 29.

W, Green, Liverpool, cutler.—A. Itter, and J. Holding, Wentworth-street, Whitechapel, sugar-refiners.—J. J. Fuller, Yoxford, draper.—G. Barringer the younger, Brixton Causeway, salesman.—J. Frankis, Hucclecote, Gloucester, dealer.—M, Jacobs, Collidge-street, Portsea, slopseller.

PRICE OF STOCKS YESTERDAY,

Consols.....65¼ | Omnium.....3¼ dis.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. WALFORD's communication shall be attended to.—The Proprietors thank him for his attention to the interests of the EXAMINER.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, OCTOBER 9.

SIR ARTHUR WELLESLEY has arrived in town, Sir HEW DALRYMPLE is on his way home, and Sir HARRY BURRARD is left in command at Lisbon. Sir ARTHUR, it seems, has been received with distinction, for he was closetted a considerable time on Friday morning with the Duke of YORK. This is another instance of his Royal Highness's respect for the public opinion, though it must not be forgotten that the Duke was himself quite as well received on his return from Holland. Fellow-feeling is certainly a great virtue. Sir ARTHUR, it is said, has undertaken to be King's evidence—I beg pardon,—undertaken to bring evidence against Sir HEW. These endeavours to thrust

the whole blame upon one man are a perpetual warning, from the very mouths of Sir ARTHUR's friends, not to regard them for an instant. At any rate however there is to be an examination into the Convention, and a speedy one, for the spirit of the London Citizens seems to have hastened the enquiry, lest it should appear forced. The friends of Sir ARTHUR therefore are excessively foolish if they suppose that any previous tampering can have an effect on a fair and open enquiry: disclosures must of necessity be made, the delinquents and accusers must be opposed to each other, motives and proceedings must be compared, analysed, and traced up to their source, and if after all this, Sir ARTHUR escapes condemnation, he will have walked over burning ploughshares indeed. The French have embarked for their native country to the amount of 28,000 men, of which 18,000 are troops. A *Moniteur* is said to have been received, with JUNOT's official account of the battle of Vimiera; he says he attacked the English in very strong entrenchments, that his advanced corps drove them back, and that he lost 150 men: but judging afterwards *how much more useful, in the present circumstances of Spain, his army would be in that country*, it had occurred to him to propose terms for evacuating Portugal, which, upon consideration, he trusts his MAJESTY will think as honourable as they are advantageous. No doubt he will. I wonder whether the Court Martial on the Conventionalists will think so too, with respect to this country; if they do, we shall live to see the same act honourable and advantageous both to BONAPARTE and the King of Great Britain!

Spanish Papers to the 2d inst. have arrived; and not only have the French evacuated Burgos again and been beaten and driven out of Bilboa, but Gen. DUHESME, who claimed the victory in Catalonia, seems to have been really defeated there. The French are concentrating themselves on the line of the Ebro, where they await reinforcements, with considerable anxiety too, I dare say, for not one of the mighty armies which were said to be marching through France appear to have arrived. The Spanish troops from the north have reached home and been sent instantly to Bilboa. The arrival of regular troops at such a time and under such circumstances will have an excellent effect on the spirits of the country. In the mean time Don LOUIS of Bourbon, Archbishop of Toledo and nephew of CHARLES the Fourth, is to govern the kingdom as Regent in the name of his cousin FERDINAND, who has been acknowledged by the King of England in the mission of an Envoy to the Central Junta, a circumstance which will annoy BONAPARTE, though it may do more harm than good to the miserable Prince. The Central Government is to meet at Madrid, but there are some appearances of discord among the great men, to which the inactivity of the Spanish armies is imputed. If the armies are really inactive on this account, the discord is fatal; but jealousies and feuds of the same nature have always existed in such times; they existed in the best and most unanimous times of Greece, in the times of MILTIADES, CIMON, and THEMISTOCLES, and they will exist as long as the common passions of mankind. History has shewn us that it is possible for men to act well in their immediate station and for the general good, though they may be uneasy in it by their own ambition. It is to be hoped that the discords in Spain are the mere effervescence of troublesome times and of the collision of minds, and that the excellent cause for which the Chiefs are contending will enable them to be unanimous in their object like the rival Grecians, though like them they may differ with individuals.

There have been several arrivals from the North last week, but nothing new has transpired respecting the blockaded Russian fleet, so that the probability of it's destruction by Sir J. SAUMAREZ decreases daily.

The rumoured revolution in Russia, though from the half-civilized character of the nation such an event is always probable, is not credited at present. The Emperor ALEXANDER arrived on the 17th September at Konigsberg on his way to Erfurth to meet NAPOLEON, who had left Paris for that place, accompanied by TALLEYRAND and CHAMPAGNY. These fatal and unwilling visits from the continental Monarchs to the Great Destroyer remind us of those fabled ships, which were said to have been drawn with an irresistible attraction towards a huge mountain of magnet, which drew out all their nails as they advanced to the fatal spot, till they rushed directly at it's foot, a sudden and entire shipwreck.

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Parliament, it is said, will not meet till after Christmas, unless Ministers should want supplies before that period.—The Convention in Portugal is supposed to have caused this delay. The People may be a little *cooled* by Christmas.

When the Russian fleet, from Lisbon, accompanied by our squadron, entered Portsmouth harbour, the latter did not hoist their colours, as if the feelings of the Russians ought not to be wounded by seeing our colours hoisted on our ships and their own colours not hoisted on board theirs!!—Our Correspondent, however adds, that since they have been in the harbour the Russian Admiral's flag has been flying on board his ship. This sight galled the seamen and the people of Portsmouth grievously.

Private accounts from Corrunna state, that in the action which preceded the recapture of Bilboa, the enemy lost 2000 men killed, and 3000 made prisoners. From the small number of the Patriots engaged on that occasion, it is, however, probable that this is an exaggeration of the fact.

Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY arrived at Plymouth on Tuesday, and has since reached town, accompanied by Gen. FERGUSON, Lord T. SOMERSET, the Hon. Capt. STANHOPE, Capt. MELLISH, and some other officers. Sir HEW DALRYMPLE is daily expected in England. Sir A. WELLESLEY left Lisbon on the 20th ult. at which time nearly the whole of the French, consisting of about 28,000 men, of whom upwards of 18,000 were soldiers, had embarked, and the first division had sailed for France. Sir H. BURRARD is to have the command in Portugal, *pro tempore!* Sir J. MOORE commands the force about to proceed against the enemy in Spain; and Sir D. BAIRD's expedition is to be employed in the same service. Not less than 40,000 British soldiers will shortly be in full action against the enemy in that quarter.

Lord PAGET arrived in town on Friday morning, between five and six o'clock, from Portugal, and had a long audience of the Duke of YORK.

Sir A. WELLESLEY was closeted a considerable time with the Duke of YORK on Friday morning.

The French troops from Portugal are, it is said, to be landed at l'Isle de Rhe, near Rochelle, as it is not thought prudent to trust our ships in a French port.

At six on Thursday evening the Russian fleet from Lisbon arrived at St. Helen's.

TALMA, DAMAS, Mademoiselles RANCOURT, DUCHENOIS, and other principal actors and actresses of the French Theatre, have, by order of the Government, set out for Germany, for the purpose of performing some of the master-pieces of the French Stage before the Emperor of RUSSIA, during the residence of his Imperial Majesty in that country.

A private letter describes the force of the Spanish Patriots as follows:—"Gen. BLAKE's Army consists of 36,000 infantry, 10,000 Asturians expected shortly to join, and three companies of artillery; Gen. CASTANOS 70,000, Gen. FLAMA 22,000, and 16,000 Valencians and Murcians; Gen. CUESTA 8000 infantry and 1500 cavalry. PALAFOX's Army and the Spaniards from the North not included, besides a considerable force expected from Biscay."—The force of the French is 40,000 infantry and 6000 cavalry.

Some of the Dutch Papers believe that BONAPARTE will return from his German journey to Bayonne, by the 18th of October. About that time all the French columns and all the heavy artillery destined for Spain, will have arrived on the frontiers of that country, and the campaign will be formally commenced. It is added, that BONAPARTE will command the grand army in person, and that Marshal MASSENA will command a separate corps of 18,000 men.

It appears by the Barbadoes Papers, that the French Islands in the West Indies are not so badly supplied with provisions as it has been supposed. They have obtained considerable supplies by the capture of British vessels.

A vessel arrived at Glasgow from Honduras has brought American Papers to the 28th of August. They state that the discontent occasioned by the embargo was general and extreme—that the Northern States were so dissatisfied that they talked of doing something which should release them from the miseries which they now endured.

Several transports have arrived at Spithead on Saturday from the Cape of Good Hope. When they left it, the garrison was afflicted with the Egyptian ophthalmia, that was brought there by the 89th regiment, which had communicated it to all the other regiments. It was particularly prevalent in the 73d Highland regiment, and in Sir J. DOYLE's regiment, the 87th. The 89th regiment had been sent to the Island of Ceylon.

Mr. HORNE TOOKE is not expected to live. Sir FRANCIS BURDETT is with him night and day. If Mr. TOOKE dies, we shall have lost in the course of a few days, two of the greatest scholars of the age. Of his politics and general character more will be said in the EXAMINER hereafter, according to the event of his illness.

The Duke of QUEENSBERRY has generously sent 500l. to the sufferers by the late fire.—It must be confessed that no one can be better qualified than his Grace to sympathise with those who have suffered from *flames*.

BIBLIOMANIA, or the practice of determining the present and future state of the soul.—The manner in which it is exercised among the Methodists:—At a religious gossiping, when the tea-board is removed, the subjects of pious scandal are nearly exhausted, and religious chit-chat grows languid, it is not unusual, after a *word of prayer*, to introduce the Bible, as a kind of auxiliary to the fading energy of Evangelical conversation, as well as to secure obedience to the sacred command to have all their words "mixed with grace." The company being placed in proper order, one of them takes the Bible, and asks the next person near her (for this practice is mostly prevalent among the sisterhood) which text she will fix upon as the object of her present choice. It is answered by naming some particular number, and applying it to the corresponding text on either the right or left page of the book, whichever the party may think proper to adopt. The Bible is then opened with great solemnity, and every heart is engaged for the success of the enterprise. The all-important verse is then read aloud, which is immediately followed by such ejaculations of prayer or praise as the text chosen may happen to suggest. This ceremony is performed for the benefit of every individual, in succession, who chooses to risk her peace of mind on the event of so solemn a ceremony.—The practice of choosing texts naturally introduced that of choosing stanzas out of a hymn book for the same pious purposes: and a Correspondent informs us, that an itinerant Methodist preacher is indebted to the above religious diversion for the choice of a rich and truly pious spouse. The case was this:—The preacher having recently lost his wife, was one day employed with a lady or two in *choosing verses*. "And pray, sister," said he, "what verse do you make choice of?" A certain number was given, and the text proved to be, "*Where thou lodgest there will I lodge!*" &c. The hint was good, and a visit to the shrine of Hymen was the happy consequence! It would be well if all the *prizes* in these sacred lotteries were equally valuable.—This is a scandal to Christianity; so also are those religious trifles, impiously and ominously called *Scripture cards*.

Shocking Suicide.—An inquisition was taken at three o'clock yesterday afternoon at the White Bear, Piccadilly, before A. Gell, Esq. Coroner for Westminster, on the body of Mr. Brooke, an eminent stock-broker in the above street, who put a period to his existence the preceding day.—The principal witness was the cook-maid. It appeared that Mr. Brooke had been observed in a very dejected state for some days, and had been seen walking about the street at an early hour in the morning, a very unusual thing. This dejection was supposed to have arisen from embarrassment in consequence of Mr. Brooke having been engaged in speculations which turned out to a disadvantage, besides his having been a material sufferer by the recent failure of Messrs. Walsh and Nesbett. He had been walking out on Friday morning, and on his return home he spent some time in looking at his papers. On a sudden the cook-maid heard the report of a pistol in the privy, and on going there she found her master weltering in his blood, with his head shot to atoms!! It was with a horse pistol, supposed to have been loaded with two or more slugs, and so crammed with powder, that the barrel was knocked in pieces, and one of the slugs had penetrated two inches into an opposite wall. The deceased was a man universally respected, from his affability and upright dealings. He was the agent of the Duke of Leeds, and had the partial management of that Nobleman's estates. He has left an amiable young wife and four children, the eldest six years of age the day of this unhappy event, and whose birth was to have been celebrated in the evening. Verdict—*Insanity*.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 31.

Mrs. Orger's first appearance.—Her gentility and true conception of her character.—Mr. H. Siddons's Falkland.—It's tragedy cant.—The new Afterpiece of the Forest of Hermanstadt.—Comparison between Mrs. H. Johnston and Mrs. H. Siddons in the heroine.—Mr. Liston's love.

DRURY-LANE.

Mrs. Orger, a young actress from Edinburgh, made her first appearance at this theatre, on Tuesday, as *Lydia Languish* in the *Rivals*. Her features somewhat approach to the masculine, but she has a light complexion, an elegant shape, and feminine manners; and her appearance altogether is more of the gentlewoman than that of any other actress at this theatre except Mrs. H. Siddons. Miss Duncan, like Mrs. Jordan, has certainly injured herself, with regard to feminine gentility, by her fondness for broad humour, and she must now be content to be held up as a warning to other actresses, how they indulge in too boisterous a vivacity. The rose may be spread into a gaudy and artificial breadth, but no art, no management, can afterwards restore it to its delicate closeness. Mrs. Orger entered with great spirit into the sentimental affectation of *Lydia Languish*, but her ease never degenerated into buffoonery: she attempted to please herself rather than the multitude, and this is a self-respect, as well as a respect to the author, which the audience always have sense enough to admire. The degree of *consciousness* which she gave to her sentimentality was highly judicious. *Lydia* is a sensible girl, whose habit of novel-reading has made her wish to identify herself with the characters she admires; she is therefore a romantic heroine, not from natural vanity, but from love of imitation, and her manners of course are full of the *endeavour* to be sentimental. There is no girl of any sense, however fond she may be of romantic reveries and sentimental manners, who is not conscious that she is in some degree *acting* a character. The loftiness of fine feeling is no more natural or lasting, than it is natural to walk long upon tip-toe, and any little accident that engages the more common feelings will soon call it down, just as *Lydia* forgot her indignation against her unromantic lover the moment she heard of his danger, and instantly began to run towards the spot.

Elliston, with his usual easiness of comic transition, exchanged his character of *Falkland* for that of young *Absolute*, which exactly suits his peculiar talent of dry humour; but unfortunately he left nobody to support his old character, and Mr. H. Siddons, who in vain attempts to unite love with declamation, substituted a mere tragedy passion for the morbid irritability of *Falkland*. Strip Mr. Kemble of his dignity, make his voice hoarser, and leave him, in spite of his errors, his usual air of good sense, and you have the picture of Mr. H. Siddons's *Falkland* and indeed of all his other characters. If he made an exclamation of impatience he shook his head dismally, lifted up his hands and shook them too, and then suddenly turned to the right or left and trampled up and down the stage, like a hero during the applause of the galleries; if he concluded a scene with any thing serious or impassioned, he prepared for an important and hurried departure, lowered his voice as he hastened towards the end of the speech, and then drove off the stage with a thrust of the arm. This is the cant of tragedy, but it is not serious comedy, it is not nature. Mr. H. Siddons is a man of sense, who would have adorned, I dare say, a superior station in life to that of an actor; but if he was born an actor, it was his mother and not nature that intended him for one.

KING'S THEATRE.

I do not know what the French may do with our theatric trifles, but we seem to use theirs in a most barbarous manner. One of their dramatists has written an ingenious story, which Mr. Skeffington copied, I need not say how, after my last week's criticism, in the *Mysterious Bride*, and this poor plot, it seems, has passed through various hands under the Covent-garden Managers till Mr. Dibdin re-ushered it to the world last Friday in the guise of a Melo-drama, called the *Forest of Hermanstadt, or Princess and no Princess*. Neither the incidents, nor the characters, nor the *genius* of the style are essentially different from Mr. Skeffington's piece, except that the afterpiece is written in a taste decidedly vulgar; but it possesses one superiority, that of being considerably shorter, and this, together with the tasteful music of Mr. Jouvy, was the simple reason why it was endured in preference to it's predecessor. Mrs. H. Johnston performed the part of the heroine which had been so adorned by Mrs. H. Siddons at Drury-lane. There was no comparison between the two styles. Mrs. H. Siddons was full of

a natural dignity, a princely reserve, an ease and a self-respect in the midst of the most trying circumstances; Mrs. H. Johnston was utterly pantomimic, agonized where she should have been afflicted, and ludicrously horrified where she should have been merely alarmed. The scene of the Princess with her rustic lover completely marked the contrast of the two actresses. Mrs. H. Johnston, as he paid his addresses, was not so much humbled as terrified, she clasped her hands, and tried to frighten him with her eyeballs: Mrs. H. Siddons was mortified and alarmed but more patient, she conquered her feelings with self-respect, and in fine rose above the man by the force of her mind. The lover himself, whom Mr. Dibdin had of course represented as a buffoon, was performed by Mr. Liston with his usual satisfied gallantry of grin. His addresses consisted of the usual chain. He first looks towards the lady, then puts his hand upon his heart, sighs, then turns impatiently round with raised eye-brows and a soft complaining smirk, and finally throws himself upon the audience with that patient languishment, which seems to say, "You see to what foibles my face has brought me!"

THE MYSTERIOUS BRIDE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir—I occasionally exchange my Examiner for my next door neighbour's *Weekly Messenger*, in which, last Sunday, I found a very different character from the one given by you of Mr. Skeffington's "damned play," the *Mysterious Bride*. This I am not surprised at, when all London knows what kind of deference is due to the theatrical remarks in almost all the new papers, which almost invariably praise the wretched productions of this dramatically inauspicious day. The Pseudo Critic of the *Messenger*, in the name of candor and justice, protests against the condemnation of the *Mysterious Bride* on the ground of its having before been "fairly tried and a verdict given in its favour;" because "it abounds with much elegant sentiment, and many natural touches of passion;" and because it was "a victim to the malignity of a lounging rabble in the boxes!!"

Now, Sir, what this candid Critic calls "a fair trial and verdict, and solemn decision of the public," was the decision of an audience on a benefit and ticket night, when the house is always known to be inundated by the friends of the actors and writer. This is like what the French Papers lately assured us of, that "King Joseph was seated on the Spanish throne by the solemn decision of an unbiassed Junta, and the unanimous consent of all ranks of people."

But "it abounds with much elegant sentiment, and many natural touches of passion." Elegant sentiment, Sir, we all well know, is in the newspapers the prostituted phrase for all that common-place sentiment which every school-boy writes, and which in the *Mysterious Bride* so fairly rivals the "elegant sentiments" of your old acquaintances Reynolds, Dibdin, and Cherry.

I have been in vain racking my invention, Mr. Examiner, to find one natural touch of passion in the *Mysterious Bride*, that is in the least ingenious or original. If there is such, it is indeed "mysterious." If the Critic had said the piece *produced* instead of *possest* "many natural touches of passion," I think he would have been more correct, for really our passions of disgust and anger were perpetually aroused by the villainous attempts at natural passion.

It was, says our candid Critic, "the victim of a lounging rabble in the boxes." That there was "a lounging rabble in the boxes," I admit, for when is there not? What else can we denominate that set of vacant monkey-men, who are more attentive to the silly or lewd discourse of the most depraved females, than to the noblest language and truly elegant sentiments of Shakespeare? but that it fell a victim to the malignity of those animals I, and every impartial man present, utterly deny. If to damn a play was part of their "fun," how is it that they so seldom indulge in this rare sport, for that it must have been malignant fun of these loungers that the sage Critic means, is evident from his not even hinting that they were a packed set of some rival writers, though other friends of Mr. Skeffington have. No, Sir; I believe every one knows that "the lounging rabble in the boxes" are a species of animals who witness with the same indifference the effusions of Shakespeare's stupendous genius and the ebullitions of insanity or nonsense from the pen of such writers as Mr. Skeffington. The impudent pursuit of sensuality with the vilest of women, in the face of an immense audience, is their sole concern.

If not for mere fun then, what could have induced any set of loungers to damn this play, men, who, as their title intimates, are fond of that which is frivolous? No. It must have been disliked and condemned by characters the reverse of "box-lobby loungers." It must have been by men whose discriminating taste for what is sensible, makes them despise that which is silly,—by men who have an utter contempt for every thing estimable in the relish of "box-lobby loungers;" by men who are elevated by education and genius above what is meanly partial and frivolous.

Yours, &c.,

Temple, Oct. 4. Philaletres.

CITY.

CONVENTION IN PORTUGAL.

A Special Court of Common Council of the City of London was held on Tuesday, at Guildhall, to consider of the propriety of a Petition and Address to his Majesty on the subject of the late disgraceful Convention in Portugal.

Mr. Waithman conceived there could not be an individual in these kingdoms who did not see the necessity of an inquiry into the shameful events which had lately occurred in Portugal, and by which the character and honour of this country and of our armies had been compromised and surrendered. It would be unnecessary for him to read over the Articles of that Convention, or to repeat what had been already so much better said elsewhere. Previously to the arrival of the Commander in Chief of our Armies in Portugal, it appeared that the exertions of our brave troops there had been crowned with success, in two engagements. No sooner, however, did our Commander in Chief arrive, than he immediately entered into a Convention, one cause at least of which was *his total ignorance on the subject of the command he had been sent to undertake.* After the disputes and delays which had taken place in the appointment of a Commander to this Expedition, it, undoubtedly, seemed strange that the choice should at last have fallen on a person, who, *himself, professed total ignorance of the nature of the service to which he had been appointed.* This Convention went, in the first place, to recognize the French Emperor, while not a word was said of the legitimate Government of Portugal which we had gone there to support. Another article went, in a particular manner, to stipulate that the French troops should not in any case be considered prisoners of war. By the 7th Article of the Preliminary Treaty, the neutrality of the Russian Fleet was recognised; and, although we were subsequently liberated from some part of this disgrace, yet it must appear astonishing indeed that a fleet which had been cooped up in

the harbour of Lisbon for a long period, without any means of escape, should be liberated by a Convention of this kind, simply on the condition of its remaining laid up during the continuance of the war. It was utterly impossible, he conceived, not to feel indignation at a stipulation of this kind. He should not go through all the Articles of the Convention. It appeared, however, that the British Troops had gained victories on the 17th and 21st, when not one half of their forces were engaged. There were at that time considerable reinforcements ready to join them. The French, on the other hand, were in an enemy's country, with a numerous body of Spaniards too advancing against them, while to them not a possibility of escape remained, but they must have surrendered in a short time at discretion. If this was not a subject on which the Court was called on to approach the Throne, and state their disappointment and indignation, he could not figure any subject on which they ought at all to address his Majesty, every thing that was dear to him as a Sovereign, and to his people as a nation, being here compromised and abandoned. He could hardly figure any argument to be necessary on such a subject. He should have been at a loss to conceive that a difference of opinion could possibly have existed on the subject, had he not been given to understand, that some Gentlemen, and who might be well warranted in the support of every act of Government, meant to adduce against the present motion their usual and useful argument—that it was ill-timed. He submitted, however, against such argument, if it should be resorted to—that, if a motion similar in principle to that which he was about to make were without precedent, that it was the incumbent duty of the Court, at that moment, and in such a case as now presented itself, to make to themselves the precedent. He was not, however, without precedents on this subject. He could adduce the case of the failure of the Expedition to Minorca, in the year 1756, on which occasion addresses were carried to the foot of the Throne by that Court, and other public bodies. We were, however, told that an inquiry would be made by Ministers into the presnt business. At the period he had alluded to, Lord Chatham was at the head of affairs; if, therefore, there was no reason why an inquiry should not be urged while that great man was at the helm of Government, he asked the Court, if a greater compliment ought now to be paid to our present Ministers than had been paid to him? He was averse from attributing blame to any person whatever, and, in proposing the present motion, he should be cautious not to accuse either Ministers or Commanders; all he wished was inquiry, and that, he submitted, the Court was called on to approach the Throne, in order to solicit. If Gentlemen who should think this proceeding unnecessary, because inquiry would take place, as a matter of course, would point out in what particular instances of failure such enquiry had taken place, it would be acceptable. Gentlemen on the other side had never been averse to a Vote of Thanks, why then should they object to a Vote of Inquiry, in which the interests of the country were so much more deeply involved? We had seen a DISASTROUS EXPEDITION to the HELDER; we had seen one equally disgraceful to FERROL; yet no inquiry had been made into the causes of either. *The want of inquiry into these disasters was the very cause why the present was to be added to the number of our military failures.* Had he made a motion for an inquiry into either of these, such motion might have been negatived, but still no man could have denied that such inquiry was necessary and proper. No inquiry, however, had taken place, and yet we saw the Commander in Chief on the *latter Expedition, now hold the Office of Secretary at War!!* He asked, if we had any security that there would here be an inquiry? Nay, if we had any security, that Sir Hew Dalrymple, Sir Harry Burrard, or Sir Arthur Wellesley, might not, *as a reward for their services in concluding this Convention*, be appointed to the Office of Secretary at War, or to some other situation of equal importance? It was from such examples as these that our military expeditions were hardly ever successful. He was sure the appointments in question could not have given satisfaction, and it was for the country to ask, why such men were selected? He, for one, declared, that he had never heard of any thing meritorious which either Sir H. Dalrymple or Sir H. Burrard had done, which should entitle them to such command. If any other Gentleman did know what particular service both or either of these favoured Officers had rendered their country, he hoped they would be kind enough to communicate it. At a great and enormous expence to the country, a numerous and well-appointed army had been sent to the assistance of our allies; and after two severe battles, in the very moment of triumph, the victory had been snatched from their grasp—by a Convention, compared with which this country had never concluded any thing so disgraceful! If, after the ardour displayed by the country in behalf of the Spaniards—if, after the indignation felt and expressed by every individual in these kingdoms on the news of the Convention in Portugal—no inquiry into the causes which led to that Convention is to take place, and the soldier is to see that he is only carried to the field for a useless waste of blood, the country must be aware that its ruin is at hand! It will be impossible for a Commander to make an army enter the field of battle with zeal, if, by such a Convention, following such glorious victories, their laurels are to be blasted, and no inquiry is to be made into the causes which rendered their labours abortive. Mr. Waithman concluded by moving—"That an humble and dutiful Address and Petition be presented to his Majesty, expressing our grief and astonishment at the extraordinary and disgraceful Convention lately entered into by the Commanders of his Majesty's Forces in Portugal, and the Commander of the French Army in Lisbon; praying his Majesty to institute an Inquiry into this dishonourable and unprecedented transaction, as will lead to the discovery and punishment of those by whose misconduct and incapacity the cause of the Country and its Allies have been so shamefully sacrificed."

Mr. QUIN seconded the motion. We were now come to that crisis, that we were not to consider who were Ministers. We were called on to express our astonishment, our disgust, and indignation at a Convention equally unexpected as it was disgraceful, and to shew that the day was come in which the interests of the British Nation were not to be sacrificed with impunity. He did not say that he condemned Ministers for appointing to the chief command a person who was untried, supposing that to be the case, for he would rather *try a man that had never been tried before* THAN EMPLOY THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF. But if we were filled with sorrow—roused into indignation that British hearts could be found to conceive—British hands to pollute themselves by signing so disgraceful a Convention, he hoped his Majesty would not be allowed to remain ignorant of the outraged feelings of his people. Was the battle of Vimiera an imaginary phantom, which could not be grasped—a thing which signified nothing? No; it was a glorious day for the British arms. Seven days after, however, it was converted, in the hands of the Commander in Chief, into our greatest ignominy and disgrace. The object of this country, in sending our army into Portugal, was to afford succour to the Patriots in that country; but had we accomplished that end? So far from it, after being successful in two battles, we, instead of serving the patriotic cause in that country, had entered into a Convention, by which we undertook to liberate from captivity a French army which had for some time been in that country in a state of siege. We had even stipulated to carry them home in British ships;—never, certainly, had the British oak been so contaminated! So far indeed were we from benefiting

our allies by this step, that in 15 days those same men so liberated by us from Portugal, would be found in the heart of Spain. Having dwelt with considerable force on many points in the Convention, the worthy Commoner declared, that he should almost be induced to believe that a species of sorcery had been practised upon our Commanders. It had never entered into their sapient heads, that there were 8 or 10,000 of our own subjects languishing at this moment in prisons in France, most of them seized in violation of the laws of hospitality, and of every principle of good faith, in time of peace, while not more than 200 or 300 of them were in a situation to supply themselves with the comforts of life. He alluded to different inquiries which had taken place in our military and naval history, and particularly noticed the inquiry into the conduct of Admiral Calder, about three years ago. It was worthy of notice, that that Officer was severely reprimanded, though he had gained a victory. He (Mr. Quin) hoped there was not to be one law for our navy and another for our army. He was convinced it needed not to be so—our army and navy were composed of the same spirited materials. It was worthy of remark that this extraordinary Convention had been concluded at a no less extraordinary period. Austria was recovering in a rapid manner from her late misfortunes, and seemed desirous of seizing an opportunity to extricate herself from the influence of France. Sweden, there was every proof, would do every thing which it was in the power of that country to effect. At Naples the people was shewing strong marks of dissatisfaction. Ten thousand gallant Spaniards had, by their own exertions, aided by this country, been rescued out of Denmark, and enabled to rejoin their patriot brethren; and on that very day on which this disgraceful Convention was signed, did Sir James Saumarez transmit to this country dispatches containing an account of a gallant action, in which the rear of a Russian squadron of very considerable force, was defeated by the fleet under his command! The Convention, he declared to be a foul and abominable act of high treason against the King, the Parliament, and the Country, for which nothing but a full, fair, and ample inquiry could satisfy the public honour and feeling.

Mr. Alderman C. SMITH said, the motion had his entire approbation.

Mr. S. DIXON agreed that there could not be two opinions as to the terms of the Convention, and he was equally satisfied that an inquiry into the causes which had produced it was absolutely necessary. He wished, however, that the Hon. Mover would agree to restrict his motion simply to inquiry, and omit the other word which called for punishment before condemnation. He was averse from every prejudication of the character of an Officer in his absence, until he should have been put upon his defence. He should not, however, make any motion for the omission of any words, trusting that the Worthy Mover himself would so modify it as to ensure unanimity.

Mr. Alderman BIRCH said, this was a subject which must have filled every Member of that Court, as it had filled all the country, with grief and anxiety. He should be ashamed of himself, holding as he did his Majesty's Commission in a Volunteer Corps, if he did not give his assent to every word of the motion. He read it over paragraph by paragraph, and declared that it was impossible to dissent from a single word of it. If on inquiry there was found to be no blame, then, as a matter of course, there would be no punishment. But, if the inquiry shewed that blame attached, where that blame lay, there let the punishment go also.

Alderman Sir C. PRICE also concurred in the motion.

Mr. Alderman COMBE could not help congratulating his Friend (Mr. S. Dixon) on the way in which he had pulled down his opposition to the measure since he came into the Court. The motion had his most cordial support.

Sir W. CURTIS agreed, that there could only be one sentiment as to the terms of the Convention. There could not be a doubt that his Majesty participated in this feeling, and that he was equally anxious for inquiry into a business, in which the honour and interests of his Crown were so shamefully compromised. The only thing he was afraid of, was, that in addressing his Majesty, we might seem to dictate to him, anticipate what it would be more agreeable to his Majesty's feelings to shew his subjects he was anxious spontaneously to grant. He should not move any thing, however, which should disturb the unanimity of the Court.

Mr. SLADE thought it was the the highest compliment that Court could pay to the unanimous sentiment of the public of this country, to approach the Throne, soliciting what it was allowed was agreeable to the wishes of every man in the country.

The Motion was then put and carried unanimously. A Committee was appointed to withdraw and prepare the Petition and Address; and being returned, the same was read and agreed to, and the Sheriffs, attended by the Remembrancer, were requested to wait upon his Majesty to know his royal pleasure when the Court may attend to present the same.

MR. PROFESSOR PORSON.

Mr. Porson died on Sunday week.—On Monday last his remains were removed from the house of the London Institution, in order to be deposited in Trinity College Chapel, Cambridge. The Directors of the Institution ordered the house to be shut for the day, and the Under Librarians and other Officers assisted in the solemnity. The procession from London consisted of four mourning coaches, followed by six private carriages; and the persons who attended him were his relatives and most intimate friends.

At half after two o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, the hearse arrived at Trinity College, Cambridge, and was received at the great gate and conveyed to the Hall, where the body lay in state till five o'clock.

At which the Lord Bishop of Bristol, Master of the College, the Vice Master, Senior and Junior Fellows, Batchelors of Arts, Scholars, and other Members resident in the University, in their academical habits, and in black scarfs, bands, and gloves, walked from the Combination Room, accompanied by the Chief Mourners, into the Hall; and after moving round the body, they took their seats, the Chief Mourners being placed on the right hand and left of the Master. Upon the Pall, several *Epitaphs* in Greek and English verse, the effusions of reverential respect for his high attainments, and of love for his virtues, were placed on the Pall, and were read with the most sympathetic interest by his former Associates in Study.—An Anthem was chanted by the Choir. After which the body was raised by the bearers, and a most solemn procession was made round the great quadrangle of the College, from the Hall to the Chapel.

On entering the Chapel, which was illuminated, the Choir performed an Anthem. After which the Lord Bishop read the lesson, and the procession moved to the grave, which was at the foot of the statue of Sir Isaac Newton, and surrounded by those of all the illustrious persons which this great and distinguished College has produced. When they had taken their stations around the grave, and the body was placed above it ready for interment, the funeral Anthem was performed by the Choir in the adjoining Chapel, during the most perfect silence of the auditory, and with the most solemn effect. The service was then read by the Lord Bishop with an awful, dignified and impressive pathos. He was himself overwhelmed as he proceeded by his feelings; and he communicated the sympathetic emotion to every listening friend of the deceased.

The following was the simple inscription engraved in brass on his coffin:—

RICARDUS . PORSON .
APUD . CANTABRIGIENSES .
LINGUAE . GRAECAE . PROFESSOR .
ET .
COLL . TRIN . S . S . ET . IND . OLIM . SOCIUS
APUD . LONDINENSES .
INSTITUTIONIS . LITTERARIAE .
BIBLIOTHECARIUS . PRINCEPS .
NATUS . VIII . CAL . IAN . MDCCLX .
OBIIT . VII . CAL . OCT . MDCCCVIII.

Mr. Professor Porson was born at East Ruston, in Norfolk, on Christmas day, 1759; so that he was only in his 49th year. Every thing about this most eminent scholar, and particularly the circumstances which laid the foundation of that most inestimable memory, by which he was enabled to store his mind with all the riches of literature, will become interesting to the world. He owed the blessing to the care and judgment of his father, Mr. Huggin Porson, who was Parish Clerk of East Ruston, and who, though in humble life, and without the advantages himself of early education, laid the basis of his son's unparalleled acquirements. From the earliest dawn of intellect, Mr. Porson began the task of fixing the attention of his children, three sons and a daughter, and he had taught Richard, his eldest son, all the common rules of arithmetic, without the use of a book or slate, pen or pencil, up to the cube root, before he was nine years of age. The memory was thus incessantly exercised; and by this early habit of working a question in arithmetic by the mind only, he acquired such a talent of close and intense thinking, and such a power of arranging every operation that occupied his thought, as in process of time to render the most difficult problems, which to other men required the assistance of written figures, easy to the retentive faculties of his memory. He was initiated in letters by a process equally efficacious. His father taught him to read and write at one and the same time. He drew the form of the letter either with chalk on a board, or with the finger in sand; and Richard was made at once to understand and imitate the impression. As soon as he could speak he could trace the letters; and this exercise delighting his fancy, an ardour of imitating whatever was put before him was excited to such a degree, that the walls of the house were covered with characters which attracted notice, from their neatness and fidelity of delineation.

At nine years of age, he and his youngest brother, Thomas, were sent to the village School, kept by a Mr. Summers, who professed nothing beyond English, writing and arithmetic. He perfected the Professor in that talent of writing, in which he so peculiarly excelled; but which we are doubtful whether it was to be considered as an advantage or a detriment to him in his progress through life. It certainly had a considerable influence on his habits, and made him devote many precious moments to copying which might have been better employed in composition. It has been the means, however, of enriching his library with annotations, in a text the most beautiful, and with such perfect imitation of the original manuscript or printing, as to embellish every work which his erudition enabled him to elucidate. He continued under Mr. Summers for three years; and every evening during that time he had to repeat by heart to his father the lessons and the tasks of the day; and this not in a loose or desultory manner, but in the rigorous order in which whatever he had been occupied about had been done; and thus again the process of recollection was cherished and strengthened, so as to become a quality of his mind. It was impossible that such a youth should remain unnoticed, even in a place so obscure as East Ruston. The Reverend Mr. Hewitt heard of his extraordinary propensities to study, his gift of attention to whatever was taught him, and the wonderful fidelity with which he retained whatever he had acquired. He took him and his brother Thomas under his care, and instructed them in the classics. The progress of both was great, but that of Richard was most extraordinary. It became the topic of astonishment beyond the district, and when he had reached his 14th year, had engaged the notice of all the gentlemen in the vicinity.—Among others, he was mentioned as a prodigy to an opulent and liberal man, the late Mr. Norris, who, after having put the youth under an examination of the severest kind, and from which an ordinary boy would have shrunk dismayed, he was sent to Eton. This happened in August 1774, when he was in his 15th year: and in that great seminary he from the commencement of his career displayed such a superiority of intellect; such facility of acquirement; such quickness of perception, and such a talent of bringing forward to his purpose all that he had ever read, that the upper boys took him into their society, and promoted the cultivation of his mind by their lessons, as well, probably, as by imposing upon him the performance of their own exercises. He was courted by them as the never-failing resource in every difficulty; and in all the playful excursions of the imagination, in their frolics, as well as in their serious tasks, Porson was the constant adviser and support. He used to dwell on this lively part of his youth with peculiar complacency. We fear, however, that at this early age his constitution received a shock, which was soon after aggravated by the death of his worthy patron. An imposthume formed on his lungs, and he was threatened by a consumption. But it fortunately broke, and he recovered his health, though his frame was weakened.

The death of Mr. Norris was the source of severe mortification to him; for though by the kindness of some eminent and liberal persons he was continued at Eton, he felt the loss he had sustained in the most poignant degree. He was entered of Trinity College towards the end of 1777. In every branch of study to which he applied himself, his course was so rapid as to astonish every competent observer. By accident he was drawn first to read in mathematics, in which, from his early exertions, he was eminently calculated to shine, but from which he drew no benefit; and then by the prospect of a scholarship, which however did not become vacant till long after, he sat down to the Classics. In this pursuit he soon acquired undisputed pre-eminence. He got the medal of course, and was elected a Fellow in 1781. In 1785 he took his degree of Master of Arts: but long before that period had elapsed when he must either enter into holy orders or surrender his Fellowship, he had (after the most grave and deliberate investigation) made up his mind on the subject of subscription. His heart and mind were deeply penetrated by the purest sentiments of religion; and it was a memorable and most estimable feature of his character, that in no moment the most unguarded was he ever known to utter a single expression of discontent at the Establishment, of derision at those who thought differently from himself, much less of profanation or impiety. So early as 1788, he had made up his mind to surrender his Fellowship, though with an enfeebled constitution he had nothing to depend upon but acquirements that are very unprofitable to their owner. In 1791, his Fellowship ceased, and he was thrown upon the world without a profession, his feelings wounded by the mortifications he had suffered, and with a constitution little qualified to encounter the bustle of the world. Some private friends, however, stept in, and soon after he was elected Greek Professor of Cambridge, by an unanimous vote of the seven electors. The distinction of this appointment was grateful to him. The salary is but 40l. a year.

From this time he turned his thoughts to publication. His letters to Mr. Archdeacon Travis, as has been truly said, put the controversy on the disputed text to rest; and indeed it was the peculiar felicity of his mind, that whatever he undertook to elucidate he fixed forever in the light.

In 1795, he married Mrs. Lunan, the sister of Mr. Perry, of the *Morning Chronicle*, but who sunk under a decline in April 1797, and from that time the Professor himself was so incessantly afflicted with a spasmodic asthma, as to interrupt him in every study to which he applied himself. Whether his sedentary habits served to bring it on we know not, but certainly very few men had accustomed themselves to such patient and continued toil. He had undertaken to make out and copy the almost obliterated manuscript of the invaluable Lexicon of Photius, which he had borrowed from the Library of Trinity College. And this he had with unparalleled difficulty just completed, when the beautiful copy which had cost him ten months of incessant toil, was burnt in the house of Mr. Perry, at Merton. The original being an *unique*, entrusted to him by his College, he carried with him wherever he went; and he was fortunately absent from Merton on the morning of the fire. Unruffled by the loss, he sat down without a murmur, and made a second copy as beautiful as the first. It is extant in his library, and is quite ready for the press. Of the plays of Euripides, which he published, the learned world has pronounced its judgment. He has left an Orestes also ready for the press.

On the establishment of the London Institution, the Managers manifested their love of letters, by selecting him to be their principal Librarian, an appointment for which he was peculiarly qualified, and if time and health had been allowed him, he would have made their Library truly valuable. His own, which he had been gradually collecting for 30 years, he has enriched by annotations of such value and importance to literature, that we hope and trust the whole will be placed in his own College, that it may forever be within the reach of those whom his example may arouse to similar pursuits, though they may despair of reaching equal attainments.

Mr. Porson had, for the last seven years, been the incessant victim of spasmodic asthmas, during the agony of which he never went to bed, and in which he was forced to abstain from all sustenance. This greatly debilitated his body; and about a month ago he was afflicted by an intermittent fever; he had an objection to medical advice, and he resorted to his usual remedy of abstinence; but on Monday, the 19th ult. he suffered an apoplectic stroke, from which he recovered only to endure a second attack the next day. He langrished to the Sunday night, and expired without a struggle. The body was opened by his medical men, and they have given a report, ascribing his death "to the effused lymph in and upon the brain, which they believe to have been the effect of recent inflammation. The heart was sound, and the pericardium contained the usual quantity of lymph. The left lung had adhesions to the pleura, and bore the marks of former inflammation. The right lung was in a perfectly sound state." This is signed by Dr. Babington, Sir William Blizard, Mr. Norris, Mr. Blizard, and Mr. Upton. In refutation of an idle falsehood about the form of his skull, they add, "that it was thinner than usual and of hard consistence."

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

Countess Morton's house, in Park-street, has for several days past been surrounded by a set of suspicious fellows, who generally meet about dusk. The servant-maid entrusted with the care of the house having taken notice of them, gave information at Marlborough-street Office. Accordingly, on Wednesday night, three Police Officers, well prepared with arms, went to the house, and at eight o'clock they sent the servant out; after which they secreted themselves in a closet adjoining one of the rooms, having provided themselves with a candle. Soon after the departure of the servant, the kitchen bell was rung several times, and not being answered, the ringing was followed by a hard knocking at the door. The thieves thinking there was no person in the house, broke the door open, and went to the room adjoining the closet where the Officers had concealed themselves, when the latter rushed out upon the robbers, who were five in number. A battle immediately ensued, and in the scuffle the candle was put out. One of the Officers had just time to discharge his blunderbuss, and shot one of them in the left arm—the shot went through the bone. Thus rudely assailed, the robbers attempted to make their escape through the back part of the house, by jumping off the first floor leads into Park-lane; in the attempt one of them broke his leg and was immediately secured. The man that had been shot ran down South-street, and turning down a Mews that had no thoroughfare, he was also taken—the other three escaped. One of them must have received a severe wound, as the cutlass was covered with blood, and those taken had not been touched by it. The two who had been taken it appears, are reputed house-breakers. They were taken to Mount-street Watch-house. As soon as the man that had been shot was brought in, he dropped down and fainted from the loss of blood. Medical assistance was immediately procured. One of them is not expected to recover. The whole neighbourhood was thrown into the greatest consternation by this enterprize. Lady Mary Boultby, who lives two or three doors from Countess Morton's, and who had her usual evening party, was very much alarmed, as well as her Ladyship's company.

A very unfortunate circumstance happened on Friday se'nnight, about seven o'clock, to a boat belonging to the Bombay, when returning from Deal to the Downs, by upsetting in a heavy squall; and it being very thick at the time, the deplorable situation of the crew could not be discerned by the ships or shore boats: a boat belonging to the Leviathan, with Capt. Harvey, accidentally fell in with the boat some time after she upset, and succeeded in saving four of the crew. The following is a list of the unfortunate sufferers:—*Drowned*, Lieutenant Allcott, Mr. Thompson, Boatswain; two Midshipmen, four Seamen, one Coxswain, one Corporal and four Privates of Marines.

LIGHTNING.—On the 13th ult. the Sultan, of 74 guns, Capt. Griffith, lying at Port Mahon, Minorca, was struck with lightning, in a way that was truly awful and terrific. The Officers were at dinner, when, in a moment, the ship received a dreadful shock, as though a ball of fire had struck her, and had gone quite through, making an explosion in its passage as loud as the explosion of a quantity of gunpowder. The Officers, as it were, involuntarily rushed out of their cabins, and discovered that it had struck the jib-boom, killed seven men, badly wounded three others, and, conducted by some of the iron-work, ran along the jib-boom, tore it to pieces, struck the cap of the bowsprit, shivered it, and then fell into the water. The three poor fellows who were wounded were dreadfully mangled. The unfortunate sufferers were some of the best seamen in the ship.

MARRIAGES.

Lately, Capt. Forrest, of Busfield, Berks, to Mary, eldest daughter of Col. James Lowther, M.P. for the county of Westmorland.

The 22d ult. at Bewcastle, Mr. R. Oliver, of Crosshill, to Miss Haughan, of Raw. The united ages of the happy couple amount but to 34—the bridegroom being 20, and the fair bride 14 years of age.

DEATHS.

At Skinwith, Mr. John Spedding, an eminent farmer. His wife only survived him four hours. They were both buried in one grave.

On Thursday, at his father's house, at Upwood, Dorsetshire, E. D. Dutson, Esq. banker, Lombard-street.

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